

House Resolution 562

By: Representatives Harbin of the 118th, Day of the 163rd, Rogers of the 26th, Hanner of the 148th, Neal of the 1st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging all Georgians to be aware of blind pedestrians and their rights and directing the
2 Department of Driver Services to review and assess their current efforts to inform new and
3 experienced drivers that persons with visual impairments have the right of way at all times;
4 and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, all pedestrians are at risk in the expanding and complex world of the
6 automobile; and

7 WHEREAS, as the American population ages, more pedestrians will be exposed to the
8 serious risk of death or injury; and

9 WHEREAS, on October 6, 1964, a joint resolution of the Congress of the United States,
10 HR 753, was signed into law authorizing the President of the United States to proclaim
11 October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety Day"; and

12 WHEREAS, Georgia is home to more than 9,000 children who are blind or severely visually
13 impaired and more than 250,000 adults who must depend upon white canes and guide dogs
14 to be able to travel safely and independently to school, employment, and community
15 activities; and

16 WHEREAS, with the advent and increasing number of smart cars and hybrid vehicles, there
17 is an increasing number of auto accidents involving blind pedestrians, since these cars are
18 quieter and more difficult for a blind person to hear when they are approaching an
19 intersection; and

20 WHEREAS, all of these factors increase the risk of injury and death for blind pedestrians and
21 need the vigilance of all Georgia drivers to prevent.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body direct the Georgia Department of Driver Services to review and
24 assess their current efforts to inform new and experienced drivers that persons with visual
25 impairments have the right of way at all times.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body are encouraged to renew their
27 awareness of the rights of blind pedestrians and vow to check for blind pedestrians and guide
28 dog users in crosswalks, at intersections when making a right turn on red, and when driving
29 a hybrid vehicle that is quieter than a traditional automobile; to check for blind pedestrians
30 who may be trying to cross a street at an intersection, using a crosswalk, or walking along
31 a road that does not have a sidewalk; and to encourage all Georgians to do the same.